THE Lions' Pride
OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

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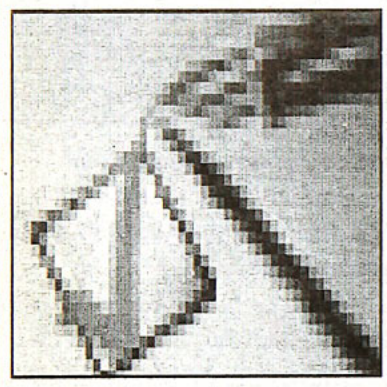
Today



Absentee Voting Frustrated Students

Many students have faced challenges in this year's presidential election process. Many will not have their votes counted because of it. Page 3

FDA Encourages Anti-depressant labels

FDA is now recommending anti-depressants carry a black box on their packaging, warning the public of possible suicide risks. Page 3

Exit Exam Decision Left to Universities

The state's top governing board of higher education gave the issue of undergraduate exit exams back to individual universities. Page 4

Movies and Music in Review

Plan your weekend with this week's movie and music reviews: "*I Heart Huckabees*," "*Ray*," and "*Poe Little Rich Girl*." Page 4

Photograph by Danielle Rossi

Army ROTC cadets practice battle drills in nearby woods during last Thursday's lead lab.

Three Saint Leo cadets prove they have what it takes

Several dedicated Saint Leo cadets join those at USF to prove that hard work and commitment pay off.

BY DANIELLE ROSSI
Lions' Pride Staff

Reserve Officer Training Corps, otherwise known as ROTC, had its unofficial beginnings in the early nineteenth century. A handful of colleges actually offered the program. By the time of the Civil War, there was a high demand for military leaders, and colleges and universities were the place to look.

In 1862, the Land Grant Act was passed allowing land grants to be given to state colleges that provided military training for any and all able-bodied male students.

In 1916, Congress passed the National Defense Act calling for men in the Officers' Reserve Corps to be compose of men trained in ROTC programs and other army training camps.

Through the first and second world wars, many of the officers who fueled the country's military got their start in ROTC programs.

Today, a normal week for an army ROTC cadet is a difficult one. The balance between civilian life as a student and military life as a cadet is for some, but not all.

Those who chose this life find it rewarding.

Three Saint Leo students are currently involved in the army ROTC program at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Alibek Dagly, Nathan Diaz, and Susan-Liza Ghalieh find themselves driving between Saint Leo and Tampa many times a week, such as on Thursday, October 28, when most of the entire battalion practiced troop leading procedures for two hours in the woods at a park near the University of South Florida.

However, on Saturday, October 30, many army ROTC cadets participated in the Fall Sprint Triathlon that Saint Leo hosted. This is one of the many events cadets are able to enter as a team or individually.

On an average week though, these three cadets have a stringent schedule to follow, which include trips to Tampa. Three mornings a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, students attend physical training (PT) at USF from around 6 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. Every Thursday, cadets attend leadership laboratory (lead lab) for two hours in the afternoon. Lead lab is a hands-on opportunity for cadets to learn necessary survival skills in

——— ROTC CON'T PAGE 4

Opinions

EDITORIAL

Politicians have no more right to flu shots than citizens

STAFF EDITORIAL
The Daily Campus (U. Connecticut)

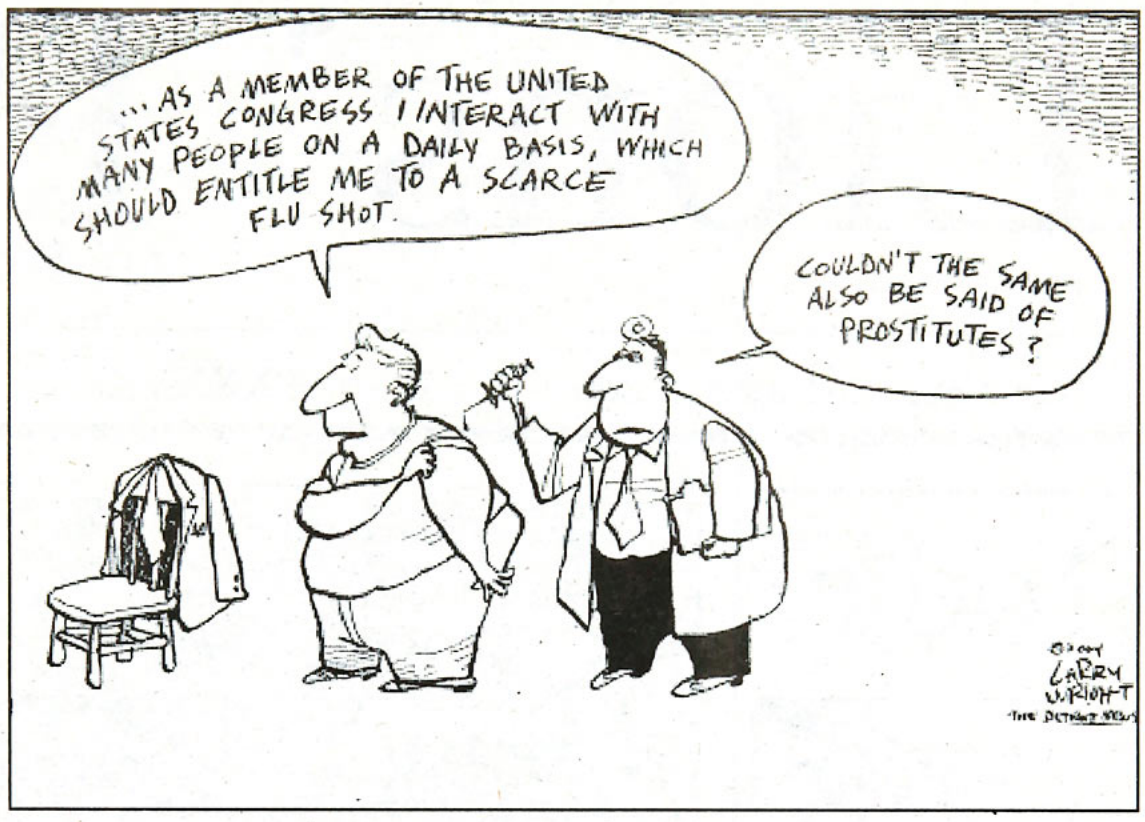
(U-WIRE) STORRS, Conn. — A letter to the editor featured in the Oct. 27 edition of The Washington Post read as following: "I recently stood in line...waiting to show a nurse my records so that she could tell me if I was eligible to receive a flu shot. I am 25 and a severe brittle diabetic. My blood sugar levels are hard to control even though I am on an insulin pump. I can get a cold and end up in the hospital because of the effect any illness has on my blood sugar, so I have been getting a yearly flu shot. The nurse told me that although my condition made me eligible for the vaccine, I had to be at least 49 to qualify."

Flu shots are in short supply this year because of U.S. dependency on a single producer in England, a company whose production was halted by the English government for a repeated offense in standards.

There are some groups entirely eligible, or at least they are if they can find somewhere to obtain the vaccine: Citizens over 65 years of age, infants, those with one of a limited number of chronic disorders such as heart or lung problems and pregnant females. But as state health services raise the eligibility age for seniors from 65 to 75, there is one group being afforded the explicit right to gain inoculation against the virus: politicians.

But, you may ask, aren't politicians charged with distributing rights? And aren't they supposed to be fair and equal? Yes, but the government has decided they were justified in reserving approximately 2,000 doses of flu vaccine to protect their own, citing their increased risk to the virus because of their constant contact with people. Everyone on Capital Hill, senators and even staffers alike, were entitled to one, as if the rest of us never leave our homes.

Politicians should sacrifice their legislated right symbolically, in good faith and in protest of their special treatment. Some did, in fact, and this is commendable. But those senators and staffers outside of federal guidelines for eligibility who received them should apologize to their electorate. Orwell's 1984 predicted events like this, though the book is cited every time government increases its scope.



Politicians are getting priority over normal people and they shouldn't. Just like the Orwellian elites disallowing the consumption of wine to all but themselves.

Give guns a chance

BY KIYOSHI MARTINEZ
Daily Illini (U.Illinois)

(U-WIRE) CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — When I was growing up, my parents had a strict rule about the toys I played with: no guns.

All of my G.I. Joes were stripped of their weapons. My brother and I never owned squirt guns, cap guns or Nerf guns.

Without exception, the largest "no" was the BB gun. The reason might have been either that I would shoot my eye out or shoot the neighbor's kid. As smart parents, they didn't trust me.

I've never actually used a firearm, and no one in my family owns a gun. However, I've still been a constant supporter of Second Amendment rights. I've lived the sheltered life of an ultra-liberal, and the shame has eaten away at me. I've felt so un-American.

Finally, after two years, I've managed to learn something useful at the University of Illinoia: how to properly and safely fire a gun.

On Saturday, I stumbled out of bed to catch an early morning ride out to the St. Joseph Sportsman Club to meet with members of the Illini Trap and Skeet Club. It was time to put an end to my inexperience with guns.

What exactly does it take to shoot a gun for the first time? It doesn't take much. First, I signed a waiver and admitted that if I got hurt, I'd accept personal responsibility for my actions. Next, Ron Reinhardt, one of the instructors, walked me through the basic safety measures. He showed me how to operate a shotgun and explained the differences between trap and skeet shooting. Then, I donned a shooting vest, a box of 12 gauge shells, hearing protection and a gun. It was time to shoot some clay.

We headed out to the trap range and Ron showed me how to properly hold and stand with the gun. With the rain dancing along the back of my neck, I shouldered the shotgun and took aim.

Pull!

A small orange disc escaped out of the house in front of me. My body turned with the gun. I had no real idea of when to shoot, but in the time it takes to blink twice, the lead shot was on its way to cut the flight of the clay short. The butt of the gun slammed into my shoulder from the recoil. The shell

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WRITE HERE

The Lions' Pride newsroom is located in portable #4, which is on the west side of St. Edward's Hall. Our phone number is (352) 588-8195.

Send letters to the editor to lions.pride@saintleo.edu

Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department.

Please include a phone number (not for publication) so we can verify authorship.

All letters are subject to editing.
The Lions' Pride reserves the right not to publich any letter or column.

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Absentee voting frustrated students

BY JENNY BONILLA
The Chronicle (Duke U.)

(U-WIRE) DURHAM, N.C. — Keith Greenberg was rejected. The freshman's first voting experience, in Florida's August primaries, was disenfranchisement, and he's one of the few who actually know why.

Greenberg is just one of many students who have faced challenges in the election process. Some students, especially those from swing states like Ohio and Florida, have opted to take advantage of absentee ballots in hopes that their votes will have a stronger impact in their home states than in North Carolina. But many are still wary that their votes might not be counted accurately.

In the wake of the 2000 presidential election, the CalTech/MIT Voting Technology Project found that between 4 and 6 million votes were lost due to a variety of problems including voter registration mix-ups, faulty voting equipment, confusing ballots and polling place problems. Several students have reported that, in their experience, these problems seem far from cured.

Greenberg's absentee ballot for the Aug. 31 primary was thrown out because he did not include a photocopy of proper identification with his vote. Not only did he fail to receive notification until late September, but the state also did not include any instructions directing first-time absentee voters to include a copy of proper identification. The law requiring that "you must make a copy" of such information just went into effect this past January.

As frustrated as Greenberg was to discover his first vote did not count, he is glad it happened early. "If I hadn't voted in the municipal primary in August, I would not have known about the law and I would have been disenfranchised for the crucial presidential election," he wrote to the Florida Secretary of State following the incident. "My peers in high school registered with me, and I am afraid that, if they vote, their votes will be invalid, too."

In the past week, Broward County, Fla., which includes Greenberg's hometown of Coral Springs, has validated his concerns. Election officials in Broward just re-sent more than half of the requested absentee ballots to the 76,000 voters who, as of last week, had not received their initial requests. The original ballots have apparently vanished without any evidence of criminal intent, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's investigation.

The only two counties in Florida that have re-sent additional absentee ballots are Broward and Palm Beach counties, according to the Florida state department's election division. Since both political parties encouraged absentee voting this year, however, there was an unprecedented surge in absentee requests, and any problems similar to Broward's could be compounded.

"I believe it will be even more emotional and divisive [than the 2000 election] because there are already reports of fraud and unethical electoral practices," said John Transue, assistant professor of political science and an expert on public opinion and polling, adding that Florida and Ohio would likely determine the outcome of the presidential election.

Sophomore Susanna Temkin, a Miami Shores, Fla., resident, did not receive election materials until Thursday, when she got two ballots in the mail.

Freshman Katie Hutcheson, a Carroll, Ohio, native, originally planned to vote with an absentee ballot, but she changed her mind while visiting home over fall break. When she went to the poll to vote early an election official told Hutcheson all she had to do was write 'void' on her absentee ballot and mail it back, but "it never came, and my mom told me that the Board of Elections called her and said it had been [voided and] returned," Hutcheson said.

Broward native junior Carla Hermida still had not received her ballot as of Friday, leaving her worried that it would never arrive at Duke, or that if it does, that she would not be able to get it back to Florida on time to be counted. Hermida's ballot was sent to her home in Ft. Lauderdale, and her mother mailed it to her more than two weeks ago, yet it still has not arrived. Both Temkin and Hermida expressed concern that Duke's postal operations may be partially to blame for such inefficiencies.

"I understand why so few college students vote — the process is really a pain," freshman Kathryn Minshew said. "I'm planning on doing it anyway because I feel it's so important, but there's got to be a better way for the government to handle this."

FDA encourages new anti-depressant labels

BY KYLE MCCRORY
Daily Titan (California State U. - Fullerton)

(U-WIRE) FULLERTON, Calif. — The Federal Drug Administration is now recommending anti-depressants carry a black box on their packaging, warning the public of possible suicide risks correlated with children and teens taking the drugs.

Over the past 14 years, thousands of children and teens have committed suicide while taking anti-depressants. On Sept. 23, the Citizens Commission on Human Rights accused the FDA of deceiving the public by not issuing these warnings years ago.

The commission is suggesting the black box warning should include information on suicidal behavior risks as well as an additional patient medication guide that will provide information to parents and children, according to the FDA advisory committee's Web site.

Despite testimony from families whose children have demonstrated violent behavior, hostility or intentional injury while taking anti-depressants, the FDA has refrained from issuing warnings and psychiatrists have increasingly continued prescribing the drugs. Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors are the most prescribed ant-depressants to minors. This class of drugs includes Zoloft, Paxil and Prozac.

When confronted with the issue by a public health advisory on Oct. 27, 2003, the FDA responded: "Physicians are not the only ones who need to be aware of the risks of suicide risks among children and adolescents who are on or coming off anti-depressants. We all need to be concerned and alert to this danger."

Although there is no hard evidence proving anti-depressants can lead to suicide, documentation has revealed that over 500 deaths have been linked to the drugs and of those 500, 83 children between the ages of 4 and 18 have attempted suicide while using them.

Bruce Wiseman, the national president of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, suggests psychiatrists and the FDA have ignored the risks because anti-depressant drugs gross over $12 billion annually.

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights has not, however, revealed any of the positive effects anti-depressants have had on children and teens.

A representative for Zoloft, who requested to remain unnamed, said that a patient's mental condition can contribute to a patient's contemplation of suicide, not the anti-depressants themselves.

"Anyone who is anxious or depressed should be watched [for signs of contemplating suicide]," she said.

Lisa Mori, a Cal State Fullerton psychology professor, has similar feelings.

"In studies, it was generally found that suicidal ideation increased in 2-3 percent of children and teens taking anti-depressant medication compared to placebo control groups," Mori said. "However, [anti-depressants] have been prescribed to children and teens diagnosed with depression because the drug manufacturers' clinical trials with children and adolescents demonstrated benefits above those of the placebo."

Mori also believes the positive effects anti-depressants can have on patients outweigh the small risks of suicide correlated with taking the drugs.

It was also found that most suicides correlated with taking anti-depressants were in the first month of consumption, before the drug had a chance to affect the brain.

"The most dangerous times for suicide are before the anti-depressant has had time to take effect, which is two to four weeks," said Jinni A. Harrigan, a CSUF professor of psychology. Direct-to-consumer advertising for anti-depressants will likely be affected by the black box warning.

The black box warning "won't make prescribing [the drugs for children] more difficult, but I anticipate there will be alarm from parents and the child," said Wayne Goodman, the drug advisory committee chair for the FDA.

If you have an interest in writing for THE LIONS' PRIDE, please attend our weekly meetings on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. in the newspaper office, which is in the portable next to the music building.

Exit exam decision left to Florida universities

BY STEPHANIE GARRY

(U-WIRE) SARASOTA, Fla. — After a heated debate, the state's top governing board of higher education put the issue of undergraduate exit exams back where it started — in the hands of the individual universities.

The state's 11 public universities will not be required to give undergraduate students exit exams in order to graduate, according to a Thursday decision by the Board of Governors, the body that oversees the institutions.

Instead, universities will be allowed to develop their own systems — called Academic Learning Compacts — to measure student performance.

The compacts are one of seven measures approved by the Board in an attempt to set performance standards for the state's universities. In 2003, the state Legislature began the process of tying 10 percent of state education funds into some kind of accountability measures.

The Board's report on the compacts requires that each student meet standards in content knowledge, communication and critical thinking, but it leaves most of the decisions up to the universities and departments.

Though Performance and Accountability Committee Chairman Steve Uhlfelder said some university presidents had expressed concerns that their students may not meet the standards, University of Florida President Bernie Machen said "hell, no," he wasn't concerned about UF students meeting the criteria.

"This model has an upside to it, as well as a downside," Machen said, later adding that he was more interested in earning additional funding by exceeding the standards than he was worried about being penalized.

Machen said testing tied to graduation would be "an affront to the intelligence" of UF students.

UF Associate Provost Joe Glover previously said UF's colleges and departments are trying to come up with the criteria that will be used to measure student performance.

Machen said the university will bring a paradigm for the criteria and assessment methods to present to the Board at its next meeting in Jacksonville.

The Board must recommend the measures to the Florida Legislature by Dec. 1.

ROTC Con't

the army. Land navigation, troop leading procedures (battle drills), rifle marksmanship, and water survival exercises are just a few of these activities. In addition, all cadets, depending on their level in the program, attend an academic class each week.

Although this lifestyle may be difficult, it is rewarding to those who have chosen it.

"The day you graduate, you're a leader… a second lieutenant," said Cadet Major Nathan Diaz, the Battalion Executive Officer (XO). "How many 22 or 23 year olds are in charge of on average forty people and millions of dollars worth of equipment? Most people have to work 20 to 30 years before they're in charge of that many people and that kind of money. It's a leadership responsibility you can't get anywhere else."

In addition to the PT and training cadets get at lead lab, they have other opportunities to sharpen necessary skills.

"Every semester we do a field training exercise (FTX) that is a minimum of 3 days and 2 nights," Diaz said. "This is a very intensive exercise with very little sleep and realistic training."

Cadets are also required to attend a five-week summer camp between their junior and senior year with incentives and scholarships included for encouragement. Some are lucky enough to be offered extra training opportunities like airborne school and air assault school. These programs are highly selective; only a handful of cadets are admitted each year. Saint Leo's Alibek Dagly was the only cadet selected to do air assault school from the USF army ROTC program. Diaz was one of the cadets selected to do airborne school.

Photograph by Danielle Rossi

Cadet Clay Keel, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Paul Hanson (Battalion Commander), and Cadet Jason Conners participated in Saint Leo's triathlon on October 30.

Although being in army ROTC is similar to life in active duty, it also has its differences. Diaz explained the process going from active duty to civilian life:

"There is a green to gold program for active duty personnel. Interested soldiers apply before a board of officers. Only 50 percent of applicants get in. Approximately 150 (the number varies each year) get into the program based on funding. The program provides full college scholarships," Diaz said. "It's a difficult transition from active duty to civilian life. The leadership responsibilities are so much greater training to be an officer as opposed to being a sergeant. The leadership responsibility is at a much greater level."

This lifestyle might not be for everyone, but for those who choose it, the thought of becoming an officer in the United States Army is something they cherish and strive for. University of South Florida's Army ROTC program is proof that hard work pays off.

Photograph by Danielle Rossi

Army ROTC cadets relax for the 'after action review' that usually comes after troop leading procedures. Saint Leo's Susan-Liza Ghalieh is seated on the ground.

For more information on the program, see the USF Army ROTC website: http://web.usf.edu/~usfarotc/. For more information on the history of ROTC, visit the USF website at http://web.usf.edu/~usfarotc/ clicking on the ROTC information option.

Everyday Lives

Photograph by Carly Romero

Eddie Gant greets Saint Leo students who enter the cafeteria with a friendly smile.

"He's a friendly face in the cafeteria."

BY KAREN CHRISTIE
Special to The Lions' Pride

When Saint Leo students go to dinner in the cafeteria after a long day of classes, they're always greeted by a friendly, smiling face. For over nine years, Eddie Gant has worked Monday through Saturday evening as the cashier for dining hall services.

"Over all, I like it here. It's a very friendly campus," he said.

Eddie even enjoys the food in the cafeteria.

"To me, the food is great. We have a large variety of food," he said. Eddie's favorite meal in the cafeteria is the beef stroganoff with rice or mashed potatoes.

What Eddie likes most about his job are the students.

"Yes, it's definitely the students. I mean, I wouldn't come back year after year if it wasn't for them, and it's always fun."

Eddie admits it is always hard when students are getting ready to graduate.

"What gets me is once they're getting ready to graduate; it's like, it's been four years already?" he said. "There are some of them that come back. The alumni men come back to the little parties and stuff, and they still remember me."

When not busy at Saint Leo, Eddie has a part-time job at the Lake Jovita Country Club, where he supervises 12 workers who maintain the grounds. At home, he has two sons, a twelve-year-old, and an older son, Donovan, who will begin attending Saint Leo in January. Donovan is already a familiar face to students, since he fills in for Eddie in the cafeteria on Sundays. On weekends, Eddie likes to go to comedy shows.

"I like comedy and stuff to make you laugh. As long as [the shows] are clean and all of them have good taste, it's all good," he said.

Well, maybe these trips to the comedy shows contribute to Eddie's cheerful and friendly personality, but come Monday, he will be right back here where he belongs, because, without Eddie, the cafeteria just wouldn't be the same.

Everyday Lives is an occasional article that runs in The Lions' Pride. If you know someone who would be an interesting candidate for this article, please e-mail The Lions' Pride at lions.pride@saintleo.edu.

EDITORIAL CON'T

ejected out to my right.

"You got it."

My mind filled with pride and excitement. The feeling was almost indescribable. Watching the clay disc explode like the Death Star, I couldn't believe my first shot actually hit a moving target. Too bad it was beginner's luck. I hit maybe five or six out of 25 during the first round.

Later, in the clubhouse, I listened to the members talk. They told hunting tales and anecdotes about their pet retrievers. The club members were genuine people who had found a passion in their lives that was as interesting as any other sport or hobby. These men were not the "gun freaks" that liberals such as Michael Moore believe populate the rural landscape of our country.

Maybe if gun opponents would take the time to listen to what legitimate and safe users of firearms have to say, their perception of our greatest national tradition would change. Don't believe the lies that declare guns and the people who own them as dangerous. After all, I spent a morning surrounded by guns and ammunition, and I still had all my body parts attached to me. In fact, the Illini Trap and Skeet Club has had a perfect safety record since it was founded in 1982. Every step and measure is taken to minimize and eliminate danger.

If you are against firearms, but have never fired one before, I recommend that you take the time to go shooting at least once. Put aside your prejudices, challenge yourself and face your fears. Give guns a fair chance and I'll bet that your perception of guns will change.

The Saint Leo University Theatre Department Proudly Presents:

William Shakespeare's

Twelfth Night

Selby Auditorium
November 11 at 8 p.m.
November 12 at 8 p.m.
November 13 at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Arts & Entertainment

MOVIES IN REVIEW

"I Heart Huckabess"

BY JOHN KELMER
Special to The Lions' Pride

"Everything is connected even if it's different," stated Albert Markovski (Jason Schwartzman) in reference to a blanket in this fall's new existential comedy, "I Heart Huckabees."

Philosophers and existential detectives, Bernard and Vivian Jaffe (Dustin Hoffman and Lilly Tomlin), are enlisted by Albert to discover the truth about his three meetings with a Sudanese refugee. Bernard uses a blanket to show Albert that there are no coincidences and that everything is related. Albert accepts this theory until his career begins to spindle downward and he is introduced to a darker and more pessimistic philosopher, Caterine Vauban (Isabelle Huppert).

In a film filled with psychotic hallucinations with machetes, coincidences with refugees from Sedan, and a scandalous use of mud, this underlining theme of connection is demonstrated through the characters' slightly more than eccentric behavior and silly outbursts.

With already three seemingly well regarded films, including "Three Kings", and "Flirting with Disaster," under co-writer/director David O. Russell's belt he was able to supersede himself for his fourth film.

The difficult to explain bizarre philosophical tale originally takes place in the day- to-day routine of Schwartzman's character and his efforts to advance in his career as a social activist. His hard work starts to go to waste when confident Brad Stand (Jude Law) interrupts with his own attempt to climb the corporate ladder at Huckabees department store. All characters are searching for self fulfillment and their quest leads them to an assortment of random, yet quirky situations.

In this self-described "existential comedy," new characters continually branch off from this nucleus and advance until even they have the ability to overshadow and take the scenes. Stealing the thunder could only have been done so imperfectly by an all-star cast featuring Mark Walberg as a firefighter and an existential counterpart of Schwartzman's, and Naomi Watts as Jude Law's confused Huckabees' spokes model girlfriend. This collection of talent did nothing but help elevate the theme of relation in such a screwy and half hazard manner.

The true heart of this independently produced movie by Fox Searchlight Entertainment is its persistence to hold the filmmaker's vision near and dear. Under this sovereign way of producing an offbeat film the director risks confusing the audience. A director in a Hollywood setting could find himself in a juggling act with producers to follow a code of conduct for a multithreaded setting.

What "Huckabees" is able to secure on much a modestly scaled budget is a sense of freedom with Russell and his accomplished tenure. What he believes would be funny and meaningful to him appeared in the movie. Whether or not you are a fan of his tastes will make all the difference in a film as outrageous as "Huckabees".

It would be fair to say that this idealistic oddball is a love it or hate it film. Russell doesn't answer nearly all of the questions he poses. It is possible this was his purpose. It is also likely that he tried to answer his own inquiries and got lost. Either way, this liberated picture still sticks to connection and in the end you may really feel that it was worth sticking it out.

If this type of scenario leaves a bad taste in your mouth then I suggest not participating in Russell's small, but poignant experiment. The film is open to personal interpretation, but as its main theme illustrates, the events and plot twists of the comedy are directly connected to the coincidences experienced by the main characters in Russell's ostentatious mind.

Twentieth Century Fox 2004

Top: Dustin Hoffman and Lilly Tomlin are existential detectives who are enlisted to discover the truth about a Sudanese refugee. Bottom: Naomi Watts, Jason Schwartzman, Lily Tomlin, Dustin Hoffman, and Jude Law are searching for fulfillment in "I Heart Huckabees."

"Jamie Foxx makes 'Ray' shine"

BY AMOS POSNER
The Daily Cardinal (U. Wisconsin)

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis. - Every once in a while, an acting performance comes along that not only carries a movie, but redefines a career and monopolizes all further conversations about the year's best. Tom Hanks did it in "Forrest Gump." Charlize Theron did it in "Monster." And, now, Jamie Foxx has done it with "Ray," a biographical film about the great soul singer, Ray Charles. The movie is ultimately less about the singer than it is about Foxx's stunning ascent from a middling comedic actor into the ranks of America's best dramatic screen performers.

The movie follows Charles (Foxx) from his start in Seattle where he paid his dues and carried a backing-band gig on the chitlin circuit through most of the peak of his career. It chronicles the beginnings of his marriage and troubled times when he took on multiple mistresses and became addicted to heroin, while following his rising career and business transactions with Atlantic Records. Much of "Ray's" story is also presented in flashbacks to present Charles' childhood in a poor northern Florida sharecropping community, telling the story of his younger brother's drowning in a tragic accident, and Charles losing his vision soon afterwards.

Biopics are a tough genre, with many standard pitfalls, and "Ray" falls prey to most of them. Director Taylor Hackford ("An Officer and a Gentleman"), who also co-wrote the film with first-time screenwriter James L. White, often seems more concerned with listing Ray Charles' accomplishments in a bullet point fashion than he does with defining his character and lending insight to the evolution of a great musician and icon.

Though accurately portrayed

for their often tragic roles in Charles' life, Hackford still doesn't hesitate to sensationalize sex and drugs. Meanwhile, other aspects of the singer's world are glossed over. Racists are declawed in idealistically fictional ways, often treated as laughable Elmer Fudds to Charles' Bugs Bunny. The movie also simplifies all the key figures in the story of Charles' career. Jerry Wexler and Ahmet Ertegun of Atlantic Records, for example, were fascinating characters in real life, but in the film are cast aside as generic ethnic record executives and sometimes as character-less cheerleaders for Charles' musical talent.

But Foxx redeems all the movie's storytelling flaws. For all that the script fails to reach the heart of Charles' complicated character, Foxx's vitality and absorption into the role pulse through the film with a rare energy that forgives the staleness of its overall approach. At first, Foxx's performance is so showy that it seems like a superficially mannered one. But as the 152-minute film rolls on, Foxx disappears, and a nuanced, soulful and honestly complicated vision of Charles appears. Even aside from the spot-on grin and swaying piano-playing, Foxx captures the sly humor and ever-present humanity of Charles' persona while staring his deep character flaws and heartbreaking mistakes in the face.

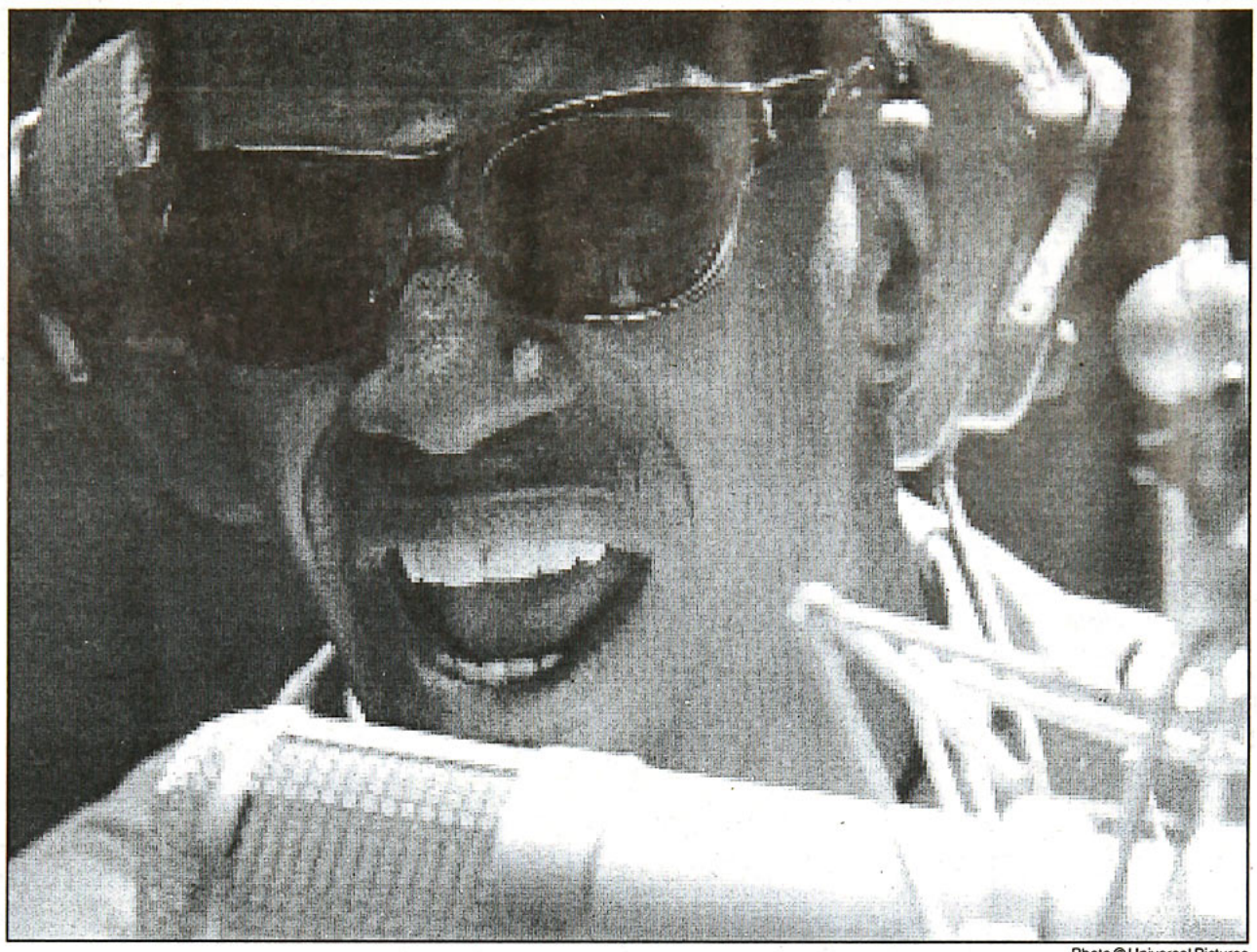


Photo © Universal Pictures
Jamie Foxx as American legend Ray Charles in the musical biographical drama, "Ray."

"Ray" is too long, too hammy and too uncomfortably structured, but it really doesn't matter. The extra length may not be spent well in capturing the story of Ray Charles, but it gives Foxx time to capture his magic and soul. The supporting characters or nuanced back-story might not be there, but a man who could not be completely confined by race, genre or disability is portrayed with rare depth by an actor who transcends the confines of the movie and his past career. That's special.

MUSIC IN REVIEW

CD Review: Jacki-O releases long awaited new album

BY LINDSEY MANN
Massachusetts Daily Collegian (U. Massachusetts-Amherst)

(U-WIRE) AMHERST, Mass. - Last summer, "Nookie," the graphic single by new rap artist Jacki-O, commanded listeners to stop and take notice. Both outraged and enticed, audiences have been waiting since that release for the album debut of "Poe Little Rich Girl." On Oct. 26 the wait was over, and people can found out for themselves just how low Jacki-O will go.

In spite of her sex-sells marketing strategy, the former hustler and phone-sex operator has created a diverse album that strikes a balance between sexy and over-sexed. Her voice doesn't get old, and she doesn't sound like she's trying too hard to project an image generated by her label. Heavily tattooed and fond of long wigs, Jacki-O looks looks like an over-exaggerated caricature of a woman with full lips and heavy eyelids.

Her music is all about control — the entire album attests to the fact she has been there, done that and is ready to move on.

In "Ghetto World," one of the CD's finer tracks, Jacki-O is open and vulnerable, rapping, "I ain't a little girl / I'm out here on my own / and the decisions I made / they turned me to a woman / The booze, the bars / jumpin' into dudes' cars / the fights with broads / livin' the life of a ghetto star."

Sexuality is the vehicle used to drive each of the tracks. Jacki-O uses her sensuality as a weapon against men, but she doesn't sound jaded or like a gold digger. She's very much herself, penning each of the songs and most of the arrangements.

"Poe Little Rich Girl" won't be a run-away smash, but it may be enough to propel Jacki-O to star status. Cool and Dre of Terror Squad produced parts of the album and the Ying Yang Twins along with other noteworthy performers collaborated on selected tracks. The Ying Yang Twins, who have a knack for churning out hits, don't disappoint with "Fine," the album's best track.

The album falters at first. "Living it Up" and "Ms. Jacki" stall, discrediting all that follows, but after the third track there is steady improvement.

"Break You Off" draws energy from the combination of a thumping bass line and electronic sounds while Jacki-O and a smooth, male voice exchange banter about their illicit and irresistible relationship.

Tough enough to earn the black and white "Explicit Content" stamp of disapproval, "Poe Little Rich Girl" includes strings and '80s rock guitar on some of its tracks. Steady and occasionally melodious, Jacki-O lays herself bare before her audience sexually and emotionally.

With lines like, "I'm just a girl trying to stay afloat / Momma you had a born winner," Jacki-O mixes messages of empowerment over dance-friendly beats. But if "Poe Little Rich Girl" is starting to conjure images of Christina Aguilera's "Fighter," reconsider. While Jacki-O has made a dance-worthy album, if you sit down and really listen to her lyrics, you will quickly realize she means business.

"Sleeping with the Enemy," which deals with the wanderings of her sleazy boyfriend, sounds like a soulful Mozart concerto flowing into a booming bass line. Jacki-O laments to her man: "you won't let me load your clip or hide your bricks anymore." Through the course of the song, she decides to get revenge by running up his credit card bills and moves on, saying, "I don't think I'm going back this time."

Trick Daddy joins her on "Champion," the album's raunchiest track. The verbal abuse, which is used almost affectionately, is sickening. While urging Jacki-O to "keep doin' whatcha doin'," (ahem ...) Trick Daddy refers to her only as "slut" and "b****." Worse still, she enjoys it.

Equally as frightening is "Pretty," a love song praising the boy who thinks she is beautiful even in her hoodie and sees her as more than "round thighs and cup size."

Aside from the name-calling and lyrics that made me blush, I like "Poe Little Rich Girl," and I'm a no-rhythm, can't-dance little white girl who likes James Taylor. Overall, the album is solid. If you like to dance, it would be a well-chosen addition to your collection that you wouldn't have to be embarrassed of.

Sports

Duncan selected to participate in the President Fellows Program

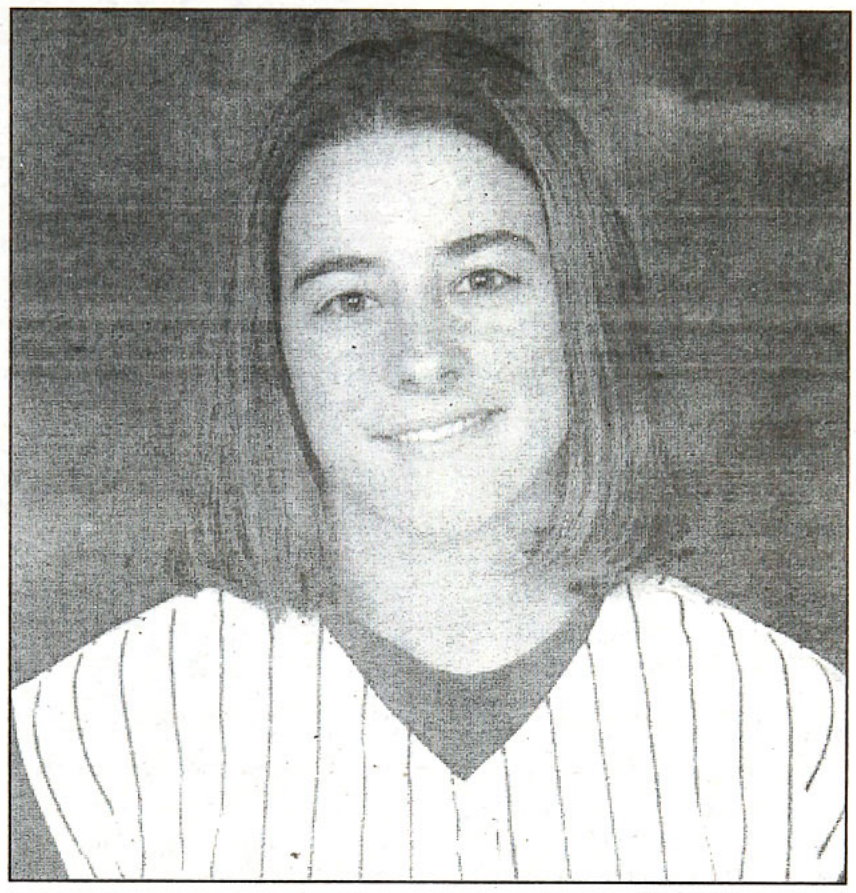
BY MATTHEW McGOWAN
Lions' Pride Staff

SAINT LEO - St Leo Student Denyve Duncan was selected by the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida to participate in the President Fellows Program.

This program, according to the ICUF website, is for students who "actively engage state government and are good for the state, their communities and independent higher-education." It is designed for student leaders at 28 institutions, including University of Miami, University of Tampa, Barry University, and Saint Leo. This exclusive program is awarded to only 12 campus leaders. This is the first year the program was created.

Duncan is receiving a $1000 scholarship for the program. The ICUF website says that, "The goal of the Presidential Fellows Program is to involve many more students in their government, working on projects like the grassroots campaign, student days in Tallahassee, and the FRAG (Florida Resident Access Grant) campaign that will educate students about how government really works. Each fellow will be sponsored at the Florida Chamber of Commerce's College Leadership program in Tampa this August."

Duncan was asked to apply to the program by Dr. Ed Dadez. The aspect of the program that appeals mostly to Duncan is the student's knowledge and use of the FRAG. The FRAG is a form of financial aid available for Florida residents. Duncan, who is a senior from Dunedin and is majoring in psychology, will be working closely with President Kirk to promote involvement in state government on campus. They will work together to highlight state government issues and decisions that affect students.



Denyve Duncan — Courtesy of the athletic department

Duncan's main goal is to "get students involved in the political side of education and really involved with the FRAG."

Lion golf teams conclude fall season at Nova Southeastern Tournament

The Saint Leo University men's golf team finished tied for 17th place in the Nova Southeastern Univesity Fall Tournament at Woodmont Country Club in Tamarac, Fla., October 17-18. The women's golf team competed with three individuals.

Lynn University won the men's division of the 54-hole event with a score of 851. Saint Leo finished with rounds of 304, 304 and 310. Medalist honors went to Nick Rockmann of Eckerd College with a 12-under par score of 68-65-71—204.

Senior John Semeraro of Nashville, TN was low man for the Lions on rounds of 74-74-74—222. He finished tied for 33rd overall. Senior Marc Bayram of Hartford, CT followed Semeraro in a tie for 59th place at 76-74-78—228, while sophomore Jacob Halligan of Taylor Mill, KY finished in a tie for 75th place at 77-77-81—235. Freshman Jonathon Mine of Zephyrhills, Fla., tied for 80th place at 77-79-80—236, while junior B.J. Evertz of Syracuse, NY was 94th at 89-89-78—256.

The women's portion of the 36-hole tournament was captured by Florida Southern College at 310-300—610. Lorena Fortlage of the University of West Florida captured medalist honors at 71-75—146. Junior Alexis Esquia of Tampa, Fla., was low finisher for the Lions at 88-92—180, which was good enough for a tie for 30th place. Senior Marlena Pogue of Dade City, Fla., was 39th at 128-109—237, while senior Carrie Neal of Chattanooga, TN was 40th at 158-147—305.

Saint Leo cross country teams turn attention to south regionals

The Saint Leo University men's and women's cross country teams begin preparations Monday for the South Region championships, Saturday November 6 at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, TN.

The Lions participated last Saturday in the Sunshine State Conference Championships in Melbourne, Fla., with the women finishing sixth with 155 points and the men taking fifth place with 153 points. The University of Tampa won the women's division for the third straight year with 21 points, while the Florida Southern men captured its eighth straight crown with 16 points.

Cross Country — Courtesy of the athletic department

Freshman Sophia Lindorrson of Molndal, Sweden turned in an outstanding effort for the Lion women, finishing 14th with a time of 23:02.41 in the 6K run. She was the only runner not from Tampa or Florida Southern that finished in the Top 15. Other placements for the Lions included freshman Ashley Tyler of Nashua, NH 33rd at 26:50.67; freshman Jenni Correa of Marlborough, MA 35th at 28:07.14; senior Mary Beth Morrison of Lakeland, Fla., 36th at 28:16.51; senior Amber Getz of Land O'Lakes, Fla., 37th at 28:22.85; freshman Julia Magnusson of Hoganasvagen, Sweden 39th at 28:40.60; sophomore Mary Stevens of Sandwich, MA 41st at 29:17.75; and junior Danielle Walter of Lakeland, Fla., 58th at 33:55.94.

On the men's side, freshman Travis Robbins of Dunnellon, Fla., led the way with a 26th overall finish in the 8K run at 29:47:25. Other Saint Leo placements included junior Ken Corigliano of Bradenton, Fla., 30th at 31:05.76; freshman Tim Sunden of Wildwood, NJ 31st at 31:30.86; freshman Josh Downs of Charlotte, NC 32nd at 31:33.65; freshman Tim Trevino of Frostproof, Fla., 34th at 32:09.81; freshman Jason Luquis of St. Cloud, Fla., 36th at 36:54.42; and sophomore Tony Dirth of Burlington, IA 47th at 39:30.83.